

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

CPR-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /070 W
----- 114651

R 121040Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3762

INCB RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BOGJ0078

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 0907

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NATO UR MR GW FR

SUBJECT: SOVIET VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 847

1. SOVIET EMBASSY RECEPTION MARKING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF
"DEFEAT OF HITLERIAN FASCISM" HELD OUTDOORS EVENING
MAY 9 ATTRACTED MODEST GROUP OF MAURITANIAN, DIPLOMATIC,
AND EXPATRIATE GUESTS. RECEPTION WAS UNEVENTFUL; SOVIET
EMBASSY STAFF EXTENDED WARM AND ENTIRELY PROPER WELCOME TO
ALL GUESTS. THZXE WERE NO SPEECHES. DISPLAY OF STILL
PHOTOGRAPHS FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON INDIVIDUAL SOVIET MILITARY
PERSONNEL AND MILITARY UNITS, BUT INCLUDED SMALL NUMBER OF
MORE RECENT PICTURES OF CURRENT SOVIFHULEADERS, AND ONE OF
WARSAW PACT MINISTERS. SOLE INDICATION OF US OR OTHER
WESTERN INVOLVEMENT WAS PHOTOGRAPH OF NUREMBERG TRIALS
IN SESSION CLEARLY SHOWING SEVERAL US MILITARY POLICEMEN.
SOVIETS HAD ALSO ARRANGED FOR SIMULTANEOUS SHOWING
OF SOVIET DOCUMENTARY FILM "LIBERATION" RECORDING SOVIET
MILITARY VICTORY FREE TO ALL COMERS AT PRINCIPAL LOCAL
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AUDITORIUM.

2. FRENCH WERE REPRESENTED BY CHARGE AND MILITARY ATTACHE. C
WEST GERMAN CHARGE DID NOT RPT NOT ATTEND. SPANISH AMBASSADOR
WAS NOT RPT NOT INVITED. SOVIET AMBASSADOR STARTSEV DESPITE
REASONABLY CORDIAL RELATIONSHIPS WHFH EXISTED BETWEEN SPANISH
AND SOVIET EMBASSIES UNDER FORMER SOVIET AMBASSADOR. US
AMBASSADOR AND THREE MEMBERS OF MISSION STAFF PARTICIPAOFD.

3. WHILE RECEPTION ITSELF WAS UNEVENTFUL, HEAD-ON
CONFRONTATION OCCURRED PRECEDING DAY BETWEEN SOVIET EMBASDZ
UF LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES OF EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY.
ON OCCASION OF TWO DAY VISIT TO MAURITANIA BY HANS-BRODER
KROHN, EEC DIRECTOR GENERAL OF DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION,
LOCAL EEC REP (WHO IS ITALIAN NATIONAL) PLANNED TO HOST
BRIEF RECEPTION BEFORE OFFICIAL DINNER AT PRESIDENCYX
STARTSEV TOOK VIGOROUS UMBRAGE AT EEC REPS' DECISION TO
HOLD "COMPETING COCKTAIL" AND SENT HIS DEPUTY CHIEF OF
MISSION OVER TO EEC OFFICE TO DELIVER SHARP PROTEST AND
TO DEMAND CANCELLATION OF EEC RECEPTION. SOVIET DCM TOLD
EEC REP THAT IF HE DID NOT CANCEL COMPETING SOCIAL FUNCTION,
STARTSEV INTENDED TO REPORT HIS REFUSAL TO MOSCOW AS
"DELIBERATELY UNFRIENDLY ACT OF EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

AGAINST SOVIET UNION. AFTER REFLECTING AT SOME LENGTH
AND CONSULTING WITH KROHN, AND RECOGNIZING THAT EEC
RECEPTION COMPETING WITH SOVIET V-E DAY CELEBRATION
INVOLVED GERMAN VISITOR AND ITALIAN HOST, EEC REP CONCLUDED
HE MUST ACQUIESCE TO SOVIET DEMAND. RECEPTION WAS DULY
CANCELLED AND GUESTS WERE HURRIEDLY DISINVITED. HANDYSIDE

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